



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: July 17, 2014

Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business:

The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by the ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical). Meeting minutes were taken by the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love (Eurofins Lancaster Labs Env). The June 2014 ELAC Meeting Minutes were approved, with a motion by Greg Tomkovich (Accutest) and seconded by Lauren Jenkins (IAL).

Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ECLP): A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

All renewal documents have been sent out to the laboratories. If you have not received your updated certificate and scope then NJ did not receive a renewal application from you. Approximately 63 labs of the previously accredited 876 labs did not submit a renewal packet and are not certified at this time.

Proficiency Test (PT) Program: A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA).

PT letters were sent out about 2 weeks ago. Timelines were stipulated for the state labs (blue book labs). NELAC labs were instructed to stay on their 6 month schedules.

Rachel asked if the ignitability/flash point PTs that labs are receiving are in a soil or liquid matrix. The labs present responded that they are soil studies but received in a liquid (solvent) matrix.

The July Drinking Water and Air PT studies are in progress. The WP study was sent out also. Letters for the SHW study will go out August 1st. There are no changes in the SHW study from last year.

Regarding the NJ EPH Soil PTs – You only need to perform one NJE EPH PT per year. There is an allowance for failure in the initial study as long as the range that failed is passed in a make-up study. This will equate to a passing PT. In one year, you need to have passed all the ranges and totals across the studies. However, only report the failed parameter in a make-up study. There is the possibility that a 3rd PT provider will begin offering the NJ EPH soil PT. Note: The NJ QAM method is still listed in some permits although this is not the preferred method to use.

Questions on the PT Program may be emailed to Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) at: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov

The NELAC Institute (TNI): A program update was provided by Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) and Michael Miller (MW Miller Environmental).

The next TNI/NEMC meeting will be the 1st week of August in Washington DC. Check the TNI website <http://www.nelac-institute.org/index.php> or NEMC website <http://www.nemc.us/> for agenda and registration information.

A TNI webinar is being held the afternoon of July 17th (date of this meeting) on the future of laboratory accreditation. Here is a link to the webcast: [Click here to watch Exploring the Future of Laboratory Accreditation](#). The link has a 30-day expiration.

Field accreditation continues to move forward. Tools are available on the website <http://www.nelac-institute.org/newnefap.php>.

Revisions to the TNI PT Module were not passed by the committee (insufficient votes to pass). Therefore, the committee will need to go back to draft and rewrite/resubmit a revision. No changes are going through at this time.

The Chemistry committee has posted an Interim Standard for the calibration sections of the Standard. A webinar was held on June 18th on this section. Oommen Kappil noted that there was discussion on the webinar that labs would need to qualify data with high CCV recovery even if the associated samples were non-detects. This could cause confusion in NJ

since the state labs (blue book labs) would not be required to do this but the NELAC labs would. Uniformity of data presentation could be an issue. The comment period has been extended to August 1st. As a result of this input, the Chemistry Expert Committee may further modify the Interim Standard. To be considered, written comments must be provided to the Chemistry Committee Chair, Richard Burrows (richard.burrows@testamericainc.com), no later than Friday August 1. Here is the link to the information: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/cms/posts/1403852401.php>.

Sludge / Biosolids: No program updates were reported. For questions regarding this program contact Anthony Pilawski at Anthony.Pilawski@dep.nj.gov, 609-633-3823.

Division of Water Supply/Safe Drinking Water: No program updates were reported.

Site Remediation Program: A program update was provided by Greg Toffoli (NJ DEP-SRP).

The Technical Guidance document training was held as a full day session, with about 100 people in attendance, and a 2-hour webinar, with about 100 people attending on-site and about 300 on-line. The need for site QAPPs was emphasized as an LSRP responsibility. The department is fielding a lot of questions from the LSRPs. The committee will stay in place, as the guidance document will be dynamic and changes/interpretations may be needed. Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) commended the committee and the training sessions.

The Groundwater Quality Standards includes a clause which allows for petitions to set a limit. The department would like feedback on the limit for bis-2-chloroethylether in water. The current CRQL is 5 ppb by the CLP low level method. Labs are asked to provide Greg Toffoli with their current MDL and RL by any water method and what a reasonable limit would be. Email this information to Greg at greg.toffoli@dep.nj.gov.

The following questions were raised:

- Will the field sampling manual be revised?
At this time, there are no plans to revise the manual.
- Do labs need to comment is they are filtering samples instead of the samples being field filtered?
NJ only accepts data for totals, not filtered. Therefore, it is believed that the filtered data is for client use only. It was suggested to add a comment so the sample handling is clear.

Subcommittees:

MUR Subcommittee: No changes from last month's status.

Electronic Data Deliverables Subcommittee: An update for the SRP-EDD Subcommittee was provided by Andy Geary, Henry Kindervatter, Roger Page, and Ken Liao (NJDEP-SRP-BIS).

Laboratory feedback is still needed to establish a list of test methods that would never use a dilution factor. Provide identification of these types of tests to Andy Geary.

There was discussion around the handling of lab specific data qualifiers. Multi-character qualifiers will be problematic (more than one character for a particular qualifier). In order for lab specific qualifiers to be accepted, a table will need to be compiled that will define these.

Questions and comments may be directed to Andy Geary (NJDEP-SRP-BIS) at: andy.geary@dep.nj.gov

Communications / OQA Website:

ELAC Chair, Eileen Snyder (Alpha Analytical) reported that the NJDEP-OQA **website** is up to date. ELAC members and stakeholders are encouraged to sign up for both the NJDEP-OQA and NJDEP-SRP listserv options to receive email notifications from NJDEP. Please check your email address to be sure it is correct. They are noticing a number of undeliverable emails.

NJDEP is moving to MS Office 365 which will also involve a change to their domain name to "dep.nj.gov" that will in turn result in changed email addresses. There will be a one-year phase in period until the old email addresses are removed.

Meeting Schedule: The Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Harvey Klein (Garden State Labs) and, seconded by Charles Anzolut (Agra Environmental). The next scheduled ELAC Meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 9:30AM**, at NJDEP, 401 East State Street, **5th Floor Conference Room** in Trenton, New Jersey. Those planning to attend must email the ELAC Secretary, Dorothy Love at: dorothylove@eurofinsUS.com by Monday, August 4, 2014.

Note: *All visitors must show one form of photo identification, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at the NJDEP main lobby in the Trenton, New Jersey complex (401, 501, 440 and 428 E. State Street buildings). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification. **Visitors must be escorted at all times by a NJDEP representative when in the building.***